



Adult and Health



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Covid-19 - General

[Winter vaccination programme includes social care staff](#)

Social care staff who have a direct hands-on care role are eligible to receive flu and Covid-19 vaccines this year.

Workers in the following settings are eligible for the flu and Covid-19 vaccines.

- All staff in care homes for older adults.
- Frontline social care staff who have direct contact with individuals receiving care and support, including housing support, care at home and personal assistants.

More information on the this year's winter vaccination programme can be found in the [Chief Medical Officer's letter](#).

Alcohol and Drugs

[PHS welcomes increase in Minimum Unit Pricing \(MUP\) of alcohol](#)

Public Health Scotland (PHS) has welcomed the latest increase of the minimum cost of a unit of alcohol in Scotland. PHS has highlighted that alcohol-specific death rates are rising more slowly in Scotland compared to other parts of the UK. Research conducted by PHS and the University of Glasgow estimates that MUP has reduced alcohol-attributable deaths by 13.4% (156 per year) and was likely to have reduced hospital admissions that are wholly attributable to alcohol by 4.1% (400 per year) up to the end of 2020, compared to what would have happened if MUP had not been in place.



Alzheimer's/Dementia

[Social care workforce invited to take part in co-design of new dementia resources](#)

The Care Inspectorate is inviting frontline staff who provide care to people with dementia to participate in the co-design of new dementia resources. The project is to develop easily accessible and understood resources to support the frontline social care workforce in their caring role for people living with dementia, who may be experiencing stress and distress, and their families. The resources will support improvements in person-centred care to reduce stress and distress for people through appropriate assessment, care planning and meaningful connections and activity. You can provide feedback through an online survey or apply to attend one of the stakeholder workshops which will be take place on 21 October 2024 (Dundee) and 24 October 2024 (Glasgow).

End of Life/Palliative Care

[Draft Palliative Care Strategy 2025-2030 published](#)

The Scottish Government has published a draft strategy for palliative care in Scotland, setting out actions on how it will deliver well-coordinated, timely and high-quality palliative care, care around dying and bereavement support based on what matters to them, including support for families and carers. The draft strategy includes a number of proposed actions which will be developed further as part of the finalisation of the strategy and development of the delivery plan. A [consultation](#) on the draft strategy has also ben launched. The consultation will close on 10 January 2025.

[Scottish Government sets out position on Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Bill](#)

The Scottish Government has written to the Health, Social Care and Sport Committee setting out its position on the Assisted Dying for Terminally Ill Adults (Scotland) Bill. The Scottish Government has noted that the costs associated with the Bill could be substantially higher than the estimated costs in the Financial Memorandum. It also suggest that the Bill in its current form is outside of the legislative competence of the Scottish Parliament and what steps will be required to bring the Bill within legislative competence will need to be revisited should the Bill pass Stage 1. Scottish Ministers will have a free vote on the Bill at Stage 1 of the Parliamentary process.

Equalities

[Care Inspectorate call for views on Equality Outcomes for 2025-29](#)

We have launched a consultation on our Equality Outcomes for 2025-2029, these outcomes will guide our focus on equality, diversity, and inclusion over the next four years. You can provide feedback through the online survey which will close on 11 November 2024 or by attending an online Conversation Cafe. An [information video](#) on the Equality Outcomes and consultation is also available to view online.



Mental Health

[Census figures show an increase in people reporting having a mental health condition](#)

Latest census figures published by the National Records of Scotland (NRS) show the number of people who reported having a mental health condition has more than doubled between 2011 and 2022. In 2022, 617,100 people reported that they had a mental health condition, with a large increase in the number of younger people reporting mental health conditions contributing to the increase. The NRS figures also show an increase in the number of people providing unpaid care.

Other Health and Social Care

[Council leaders withdraw support for National Care Service legislation](#)

COSLA has withdrawn support for the National Care Service (Scotland) Bill, which is currently being considered by the Scottish Parliament. The Scottish Government Bill aims to ensure greater transparency in the delivery of community health and social care, improve standards, strengthen the role of the workforce and provide better support for unpaid carers. COSLA said it continues to support key areas of reform, including care home visitation rights and improving the experience of the workforce, but expressed concern that the Bill and proposed amendments do not reflect a model which local government can support.

[Further analysis of the Health and Care Experience \(HACE\) survey data published](#)

Additional information on how people's experiences of care services and of providing care have changed between 2015-16 and 2023-24 has been published by the Scottish Government. The analysis includes results from the 2023/24 survey on the number of hours of unpaid care people provided to others, and how they felt about their caring responsibilities. The analysis shows that the proportion of people providing care to others has increased in 2023-24 (16%) compared to 2015-16 (14%) and that the number of hours of care people provide is also higher in 2023-24 than it was in 2015-16. The analysis also includes information around experiences of unmet needs, showing that many respondents found services to be inaccessible or complex to access and that some were reluctant to ask for support.

[National Islands Plan Implementation Route Map 2024 update](#)

The Scottish Government has published the 2024 update to the National Islands Plan Implementation Route Map (IRM), setting out its actions and planned investments to support island communities. The route map will guide the ongoing implementation of the current plan with a new National Islands Plan due to be published in 2025. The IRM includes commitments around housing, fuel poverty, access to health and social care for those in islands and remote areas, and child poverty. Alongside other commitments, the Scottish Government has committed to re-run the Islands Cost Crisis Emergency Fund in 2024-25 which targets immediate support to those who are struggling due to the cost of living crisis.



[SSSC launches consultation on proposed increase to registration fees](#)

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) is calling on registrants and employers to share their views on proposed increases to registration fees. The proposed changes include a small increase every year for five years, with registrants paying the full increase from year five. The consultation will close on 23 December 2024.

[Applications open to join NES Board as a non-executive member](#)

NHS Education for Scotland (NES) is inviting applications to join its Board as a non-executive member. Additional training and development will be provided. The closing date for applications is 5pm on Friday 4 October 2024.

Other

[Accounts Commission report highlights urgent need for transformation in councils](#)

The Accounts Commission has published a report on the role transformation and collaboration can play in helping councils to achieve financial sustainability. The report recognises the challenges currently faced by councils, including increased demands and financial pressures, and highlights an urgent need for reform in local government. The report suggests that councils and key partners must increase the pace and scale of major changes in order to protect vital public services. The report also highlights work being undertaken as part of the sector-led Transformation Programme to help councils reform how they deliver services. The programme is being delivered by the Society of Local Authority Chief Executives (Solace) and the Improvement Service and focuses on developing proposals for a future operating model for councils and options for the delivery of sustainable council services.

[Independent analysis of consultation responses on the national Good Food Nation plan](#)

The Scottish Government has published an independent analysis of the responses to the consultation on the draft national Good Food Nation (GFN) plan. The analysis identifies a number of key themes from consultation responses including that the draft Plan in its current form is too general and vague, and that it is focused on existing policies rather than introducing new ones. Concerns around the funding and resources that would be needed to implement the plan and how outcomes, targets and indicators will be measured, monitored and evidenced were also raised by respondents.



Disclaimer

This weekly bulletin is produced as an update on the key issues concerning adults and health.

Each item in the bulletin has a hyperlinked headline that will take the reader to the original source.

We collate items from our parliamentary and Scottish Government monitoring covering health and social care news from throughout the UK, and current research and policy development. We use a variety of sources for the bulletin, including alerts from [Newsdirect](#), [Community Care](#), [Children & Young People Now](#) and [ISD Scotland](#).

We aim to be representative rather than comprehensive, so we try to cover only the main Scottish stories, along with some stories from the rest of the UK. The purpose of the bulletin is to alert readers to items of interest. It should be noted that these items are the works of others and are neither authorised nor endorsed by the Care Inspectorate, with the exception of publications which are identified as Care Inspectorate publications.

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